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ABSTRACT

This book is about teenage pregnancy among Latina teenagers in East Los Angeles (California). It focuses on teenage pregnancy and motherhood among economically disadvantaged Latinas aged 17 and under. The young mothers in this study were participants in a series of intervention efforts to prevent repeat pregnancy at a family planning clinic. This book was inspired by the observation that most of these young women had relatively good birth outcomes despite poor prenatal care. Many had, in fact, planned their pregnancies, and most had a high level of support from partners and families. Data came from two surveys of teen mothers, 1,017 in 1986-87, and 1,293 in 1992-94, and from a longitudinal study of 173 young Latina mothers participating in the pregnancy prevention project. Other data came from qualitative interviews with 28 teens and 13 service providers, and interviews and conversations with teens, project staff, and clinic service providers. Chapter 1 describes the study population, and chapter 2 discusses the problem of teenage pregnancy in America and an overview of research on Latino adolescent sexual behavior and cultural factors. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the repeat pregnancy prevention project. In chapter 5, young Latina mothers and the social context of their pregnancies are described. Chapters 6 through 8 discuss issues of health care use and outcomes. Chapter 9 explores "Implications for America's War on Teenage Pregnancy." (Contains 5 figures, 31 tables, and 202 references.) (SLD)

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